

Dear Jim,

Today's UPI piece on Ray

1/25/78

After reading the Post's story I decided to write Grant Dillman. I also checked my files and had more contact with them than my letter indicates. Including with Rodgers. You may recall that I offered him an exclusive on my part of the habeas corpus/evidentiary hearing work and he came to your home he would not touch it. I told you then he depended too much on his sources inside the Department, his beat.

I have a means of remembering the day: it is the day I reported what turned out to be the symptoms of pneumonia to the GHA doctor, who ignored them. It was in 4/75.

While I can't be sure and while even if my suspicion is correct the scoundrels could have arranged it through cutoffs, I believe this is the kind of operation we have seen often enough in FBI files - in Justice what then was a Bill King operation.

Before you get this you will have received my last night's note forecasting something like this - vengeance again, hurting me and my work again, trying to destroy the use of the material by me and undermining me should I make an approach on a book.

I also told you that I believe they are angry or desperate enough to do what we can turn around. Whether or not they did this we can turn it around. I think the UPI error and prejudice is clear enough. If UPI answers and denies I think the denial will not be credible. If they don't answer it will be a fair assumption they are embarrassed enough to be unwilling to be honest.

This leads to the question what do we do?

I think it is unlikely that any paper or AP would touch this. Not even the National Enquirer. Although I could try there.

It is worth raising the question with Lynne, if you think she'd level. Or with Schaffer, if you think he has the fearlessness to ask the FBI for their contact records.

It may be worth raising with Green after we hear or have time to hear and have not heard from UPI.

One of their ways of defending themselves is to take the Graham road, which you may recall. I did, thus the letter.

Having had a broken-up day I thought I'd put these few thoughts down for you to ponder when you have time.

UPI did the same thing with JFK stuff and Secret Service recently.

AP with the first volumes of the FBI's 12/7/77 release.

I also have advance stories on the 1/18 release, as I recall. Who besides the FBI could have let anyone know?

They've made a mistake, I think. We may or may not be able to turn it around and have it be helpful to us but we should be thinking about it. Little things like this can become big things because of their character.

Hastily,